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NAJIN SHIPYARD 28:
NORTH KOREA'S FOREMOST
COMBATANT PRODUCING
SHIPYARD

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NAJIN SHIPYARD 28: NORTH KOREA'S FOREMOST COMBATANT PRODUCING SHIPYARD

Najin Shipyard 28 is the leading North Korean producer of combatant vessels, including two new patrol escorts (PF)/large submarine chasers (PC), two classes of motor torpedo boats (PT), two types of motor gun boats (PGM), and a new class of utility landing craft (LCU). The Najin Yard is almost totally committed to combatant production, an indication of the priority assigned to strengthening the North Korea Navy (NKN) forces.

The variety and number of units being produced at Najin indicate an effort by the NKN to develop design and construction self-sufficiency. The emphasis on construction of new vessel types also reflects a large scale effort (by North Korean standards) to expand and upgrade the naval forces.

Recent indigenous naval vessel construction includes the following units:

1. Sariwon class PF/PC (Figure 1). Two units are currently under construction on the building ways at the Najin Shipyard. These vessels are dimensionally and structurally similar to the obsolete, pre-World War II Soviet "T" class minesweeper. It is somewhat difficult to rationalize new construction of an outmoded marginally successful unit like the "T". The Koreans evidently chose to utilize the suitable engineering aspects of the "T" while modifying it to overcome its shortcomings. The vessels under construction are not sufficiently complete to allow identification as to type or mission.

2. Anju class PT (Figure 2). At least four vessels of this class are operational in the West Sea Fleet. This class seems to be employed in lieu of P-6 PT on the west coast but appears to have no advantage since the two classes are similar in armament.

3. Kosong class PT (Figure 3). Slightly smaller than the P-4 PT, the Kosong lead unit was first sighted and probably constructed at Najin Shipyard 28.

4. Sinhung class PT (Figure 4). A second probable lead ship unit was also observed at Najin. This vessel measures approximately and is distinctly different from the P-2 PT which approximates its dimensions.

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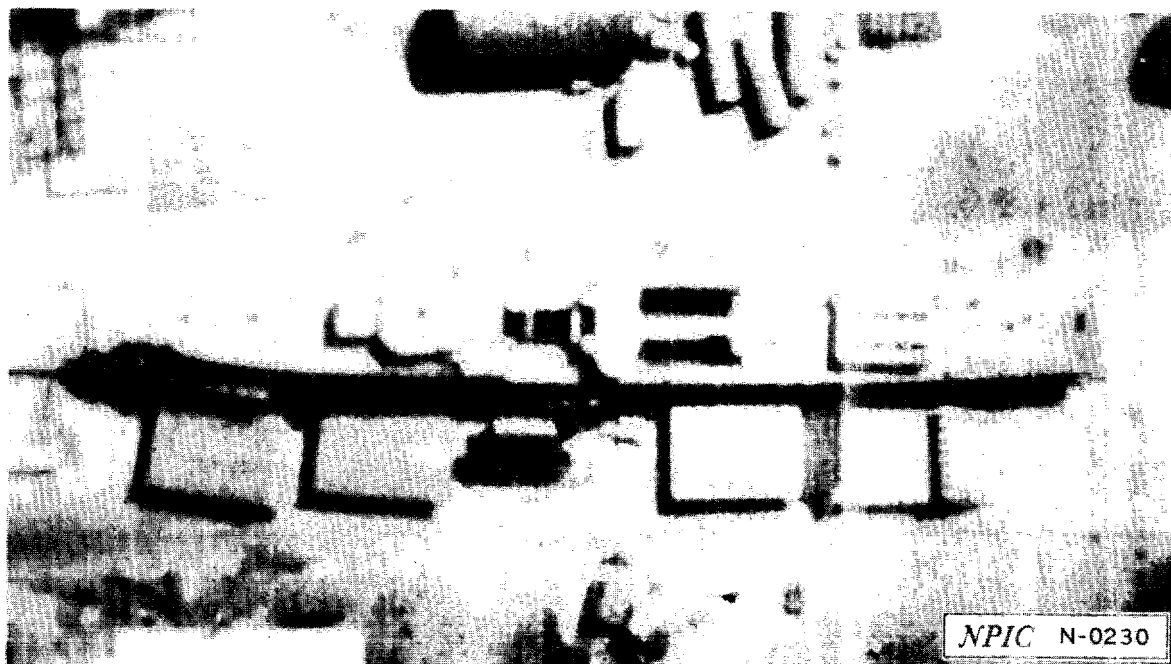


FIGURE 1. SARIWON CLASS PF/PC.

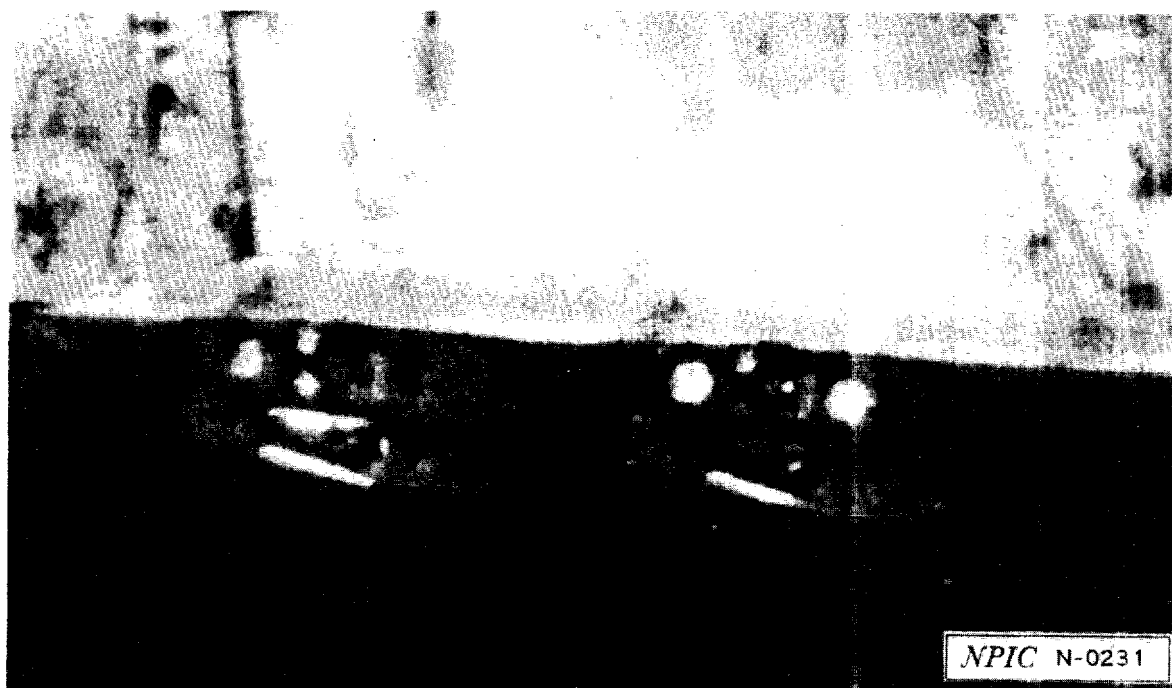


FIGURE 2. ANJU CLASS PT.

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5. Sinpo class PGM (Figure 3). This unit appears to be yet another lead ship, also produced at Najin.

6. Soman type PGM (Figure 5). This single unit is of unknown origin. It has an unusual gun configuration in that the two athwartship mounts are located on the superstructure.

7. Hanchon class LCU (Figure 6). These utility landing craft are constructed at Najin Shipyard 28. No amphibious vessels of this size have previously been employed by the NKN. At least three units are currently in existence.

Construction of two additional classes/types of large probable PGM is in progress in the Nampo Shipyard.

The variety and numbers of vessels being built, when considered along with the recently acquired Soviet units such as W class submarines, KOMAR guided missile patrol boats, and Shershen fast patrol boats, indicate a sustained effort at improving the coastal defense posture of the NKN Navy.

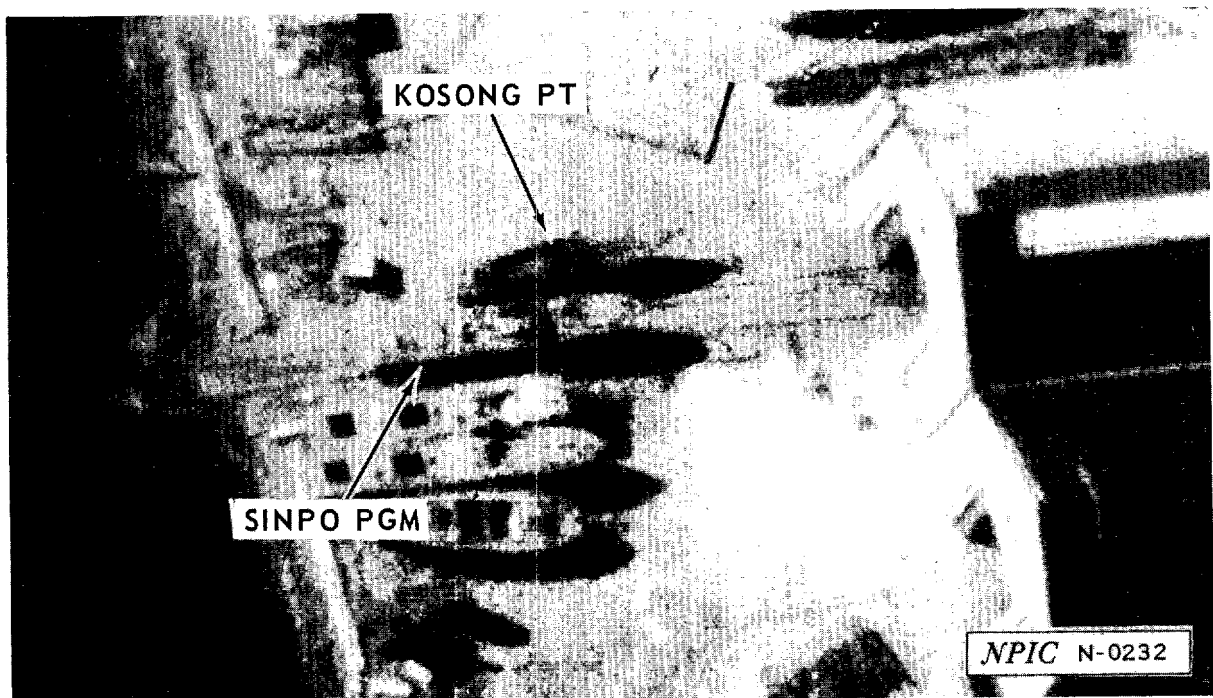


FIGURE 3. KOSONG CLASS PT & SINPO CLASS PGM.

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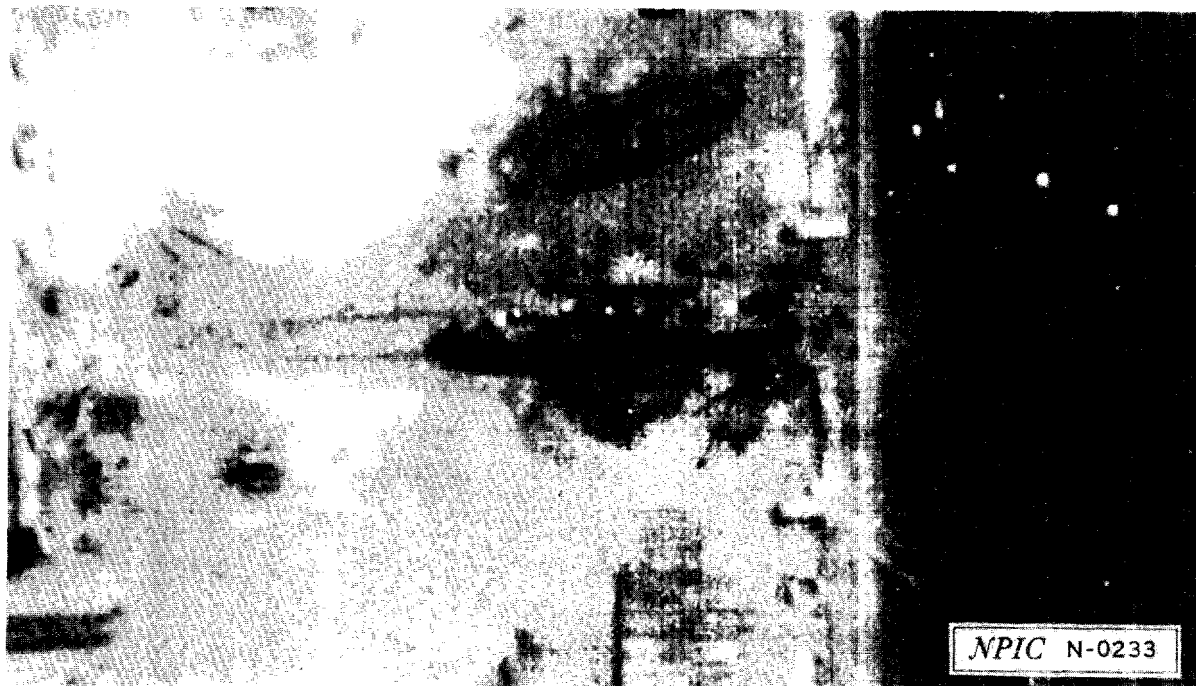


FIGURE 4. SINHUNG CLASS PT.

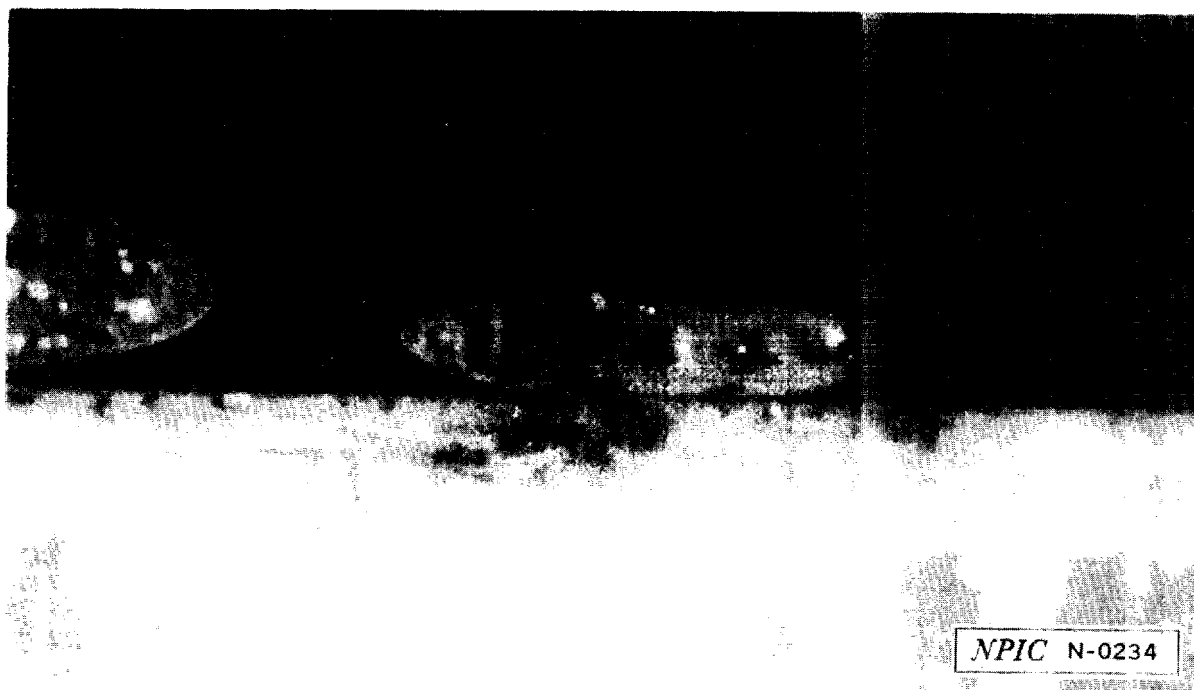


FIGURE 5. SOMAN TYPE PGM.

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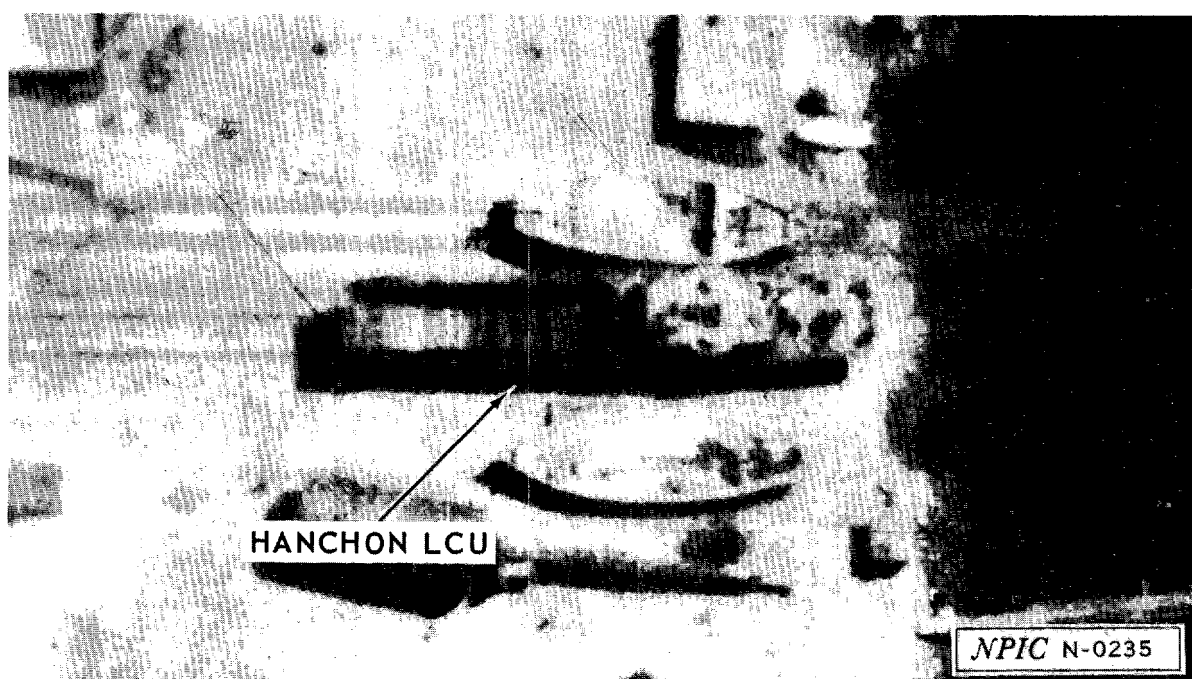


FIGURE 6. HANCHON CLASS LCU.

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